

From: [Carlos Rodriguez](#)
To: [Jeff Zarrinam](#)
Cc: [Aram Taslagyan](#); [Carlos Rios](#); [Sunil Rajpal](#); [Shahenian, Nicole](#); [Gubler, Leron](#); [Jacques Massachi \(jmassachi@gmail.com\)](#); [harveysshield@gmail.com](#)
Subject: Re: Landscaping Concerns with Median Island on Vermont Project
Date: Monday, November 7, 2016 12:15:59 PM

Hello Jeff,

Thank you very much for your prompt response. I am very glad that EHBID was able to review Sharyn Romano's concerns regarding the landscaping on the project. Thank you very much for address her concerns. We will proceed forward with the project as per design.

The buried manhole at the median island south of De Longpre Ave was repaired and adjusted to grade last week, see the attached picture for your reference.

At the median island just south of De Longpre Ave, the contractor excavated the required two (2) feet from the top of the concrete curb and encountered slurry for the entire width and length (dimensions are 6 feet in width and 110 feet in length) of the median island. We consulted with our landscape architect colleagues and they have provided us with some insight to the new conditions with the slurry base, which are listed as follows:

- A) One concern is the potential for high PH values (alkaline) created with the slurry (concrete) being so shallow. The two (2) feet of topsoil will not be enough to filter the high PH and become detrimental to the landscaping.
- B) Another concern is the slurry creating a water pool effect. The quantity of irrigation for the median island will need to be regulated because water may not permeate as well with the slurry as it would with natural soil. Therefore, too much water stagnated at the slurry with high PH concentration will also be detrimental to the landscaping.
- C) Another concern was not having sufficient soil for the tree root to grow and establish a deep root. The deep root growth will maintain the tree healthy and with a strong establishment. The recommendation was to provide these trees with five (5) to six (6) feet of additional soil. Meaning we would need to excavate five to six feet of slurry, which is too costly for the project to consider. Therefore, the excavation of the slurry would be for the entire median island to help create the soil area for the roots to spread and establish themselves. Plus, the soil will buffer the potential high PH values that can be created and affect the trees.
- C) Similar concern would be for the ground cover and shrubs to have more than just the two feet of topsoil with the median island. The recommendation is to excavate at least one (1) foot of slurry to create more soil for the ground cover and shrubs. We have requested the Contractor to provide us with a cost estimate to remove one (1) foot of slurry and import one (1) foot of topsoil to create a healthier environment for ground cover and shrubs.

I hope the above details provide you with a better understanding of the conditions and options that are more cost effective for us to consider on this project. Yes, the excavation of the slurry is unexpected on the project and looks to be a costly measure to consider on this project. I definitely appreciate your support and blessing to proceed forward with the option of planting ground cover and shrubs for this median island only. We will move forward with the contractor to consider this options. If you have an additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me.

Thanks,

On Thu, Nov 3, 2016 at 7:24 PM, Jeff Zarrinam <Jeff@hollywoodhotel.net> wrote:

Hi Carlos

The lady was Sharyn Romano from Los Angeles Beautification Team, our landscape maintenance contractor.

We had an EHBID board meeting the next day and Sharyn mentioned the discussion she had with Carlos Rios.

The board decided to stay the course and to not make any changes to the approved plans... for fear of more delays and increased costs!

... So we are staying the course and therefore no changes.

What's going to happen with the buried manhole?

I have some questions regarding the excavation for my own knowledge in the event anyone asks me why the trees were not planted in this particular median.

Would the contractor excavate the slurry from the entire length of the median or only in the 2 sections where the 2 trees are?

How deep would they have to excavate for the trees to have a good foothold?

This type of excavation was unexpected and would have gone over and beyond the scope of the work requested of the contractor resulting in a change order.

Since we cannot risk the remaining funds as they are budgeted for the two additional medians below Santa Monica Boulevard, we cannot do the slurry excavation at this time, if ever.

Therefore, please move forward with planting only the ground cover and low shrubs for this median as you recommended.

Vaya con Dios,

Jeff Zarrinnam, C.H.A.

President & CEO



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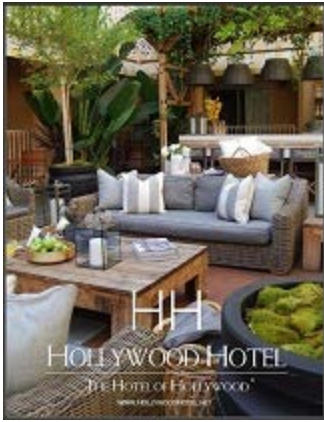


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From: Carlos Rodriguez [mailto:carlos.c.rodriguez@lacity.org]
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2016 6:08 PM
To: Jeff Zarrinam; Aram Taslagyan
Cc: Carlos Rios; Sunil Rajpal
Subject: Landscaping Concerns with Median Island on Vermont Project

Hello Aram & Jeff,

We encountered some unforeseen condition at the median island just south of the De Longpre Ave. During the excavation process the Contractor found a buried manhole and 2 feet below the concrete curb the entire width and length of the island found a consistency of low strength cement and gravel (know as slurry), which is related to an existing sewer line. We expected to find native soil after excavating the required 2 feet inside the median island for the installation of topsoil for planting of landscaping. The removal of this slurry will be a significant cost on the project of which our funding are limited on this project. Thus, this condition is not a health environment for tree growth, because trees required much more soil depth to properly establish a strong stable root growth. A condition with shallow root growth may create a condition where a strong wind will knock down the tree and create a serious liability concern for the City of LA on the roadway.

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Carlos Rodriguez

Transportation Engineering Associate II

Active Mobility and Safety Implementation

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Los Angeles Department of Transportation

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